



*Audio Access For People Who Are
Blind or Print-Challenged*

Connecticut General Assembly
Appropriations Committee
Sen. Catherine Osten, co-chair
Rep. Toni Walker, co-chair

Feb. 19, 2020

Dear Sen. Osten, Rep. Walker, and members of the Appropriations Committee:

On behalf of CRIS Radio's Board of Directors, listeners, volunteers, and staff, thank you for your support of Connecticut's only radio-reading service. Your support signals the importance of an expansive community effort of more than 200 volunteers who dedicate themselves to making words come alive for those who cannot read due to blindness or other print disability.

The state's appropriation is essential to our operation. Consider the impact of the state's appropriation -- CRIS now makes its service available to more than 100,000 people in the state who are blind or unable to read due to learning, physical, intellectual, emotional or medical conditions.

Numbers tell only part of the story. The real value is how CRIS improved the quality of life for those we serve.

- Broadcasting grocery store sales flyers reduces food insecurity for those most in need.
- Broadcasting local news and obituaries keeps our listeners connected to their community, their neighbors, friends, and family.
- Producing "talking exhibits" opens up museums for people who would otherwise not have access to museum's rich information.

Attached are some letters and emails about the importance of CRIS services to our listeners. .

Sincerely,

Diane Weaver Dunne
Executive Director

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